

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 MCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SAM-01

CCO-00 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 /063 W

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O R 041703Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7410

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ORIT, SP

SUBJECT: BASQUE MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF REALM ASSASSINATED

1. ACCORDING TO SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EUROPA PRESS, UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN IN SAN SEBASTIAN, GUIPUZCOA, SUBMACHINEGUNNED COUNCIL OF THE REALM MEMBER JUAN MARIA DE ARALUCE VILLAR FROM A CAR ON OCTOBER 4 AND THEN FLED. ARALUCE VILLAR, WHO WAS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF GUIPUZCOA, HELD ONE OF THE TWO SEATS FOR LOCAL

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ADMINISTRATORS ON THE 17-MAN COUNCIL OF THE REALM.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT SEVERAL OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED, INCLUDING ARALUCE VILLAR'S CHAUFFEUR AND ONE POLICE ESCORT.

2. POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION, BUT THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AGO, THE ETA POL/MIL WING ANNOUNCED FROM SOTHERN FRANCE THAT IT WAS SEPARATING ITS PURELY POLITICAL ENDEAVORS FROM ITS EFFORTS AT "ARMED STRUGGLE" (MADRID 7383). ARALUCE WAS BASQUE "TRADITIONALIST" (FRANCO SUPPORTERS) WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE FINANCIALLY POWERFUL ORIOLS FAMILY, THOUGH IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT HE COULD BE PERSUADED TO DO THE KING'S BIDDING IN THE COUNCIL.

3. AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS THAT ARALUCE VILLAR HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF THREATS EARLIER, AND IT IS ASSUEMED IN THE BASQUE REGION THAT THE KILLERS WERE FROM THE ETA. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, REPORTS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID07576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760374-0070
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761086/aaaacwoh.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASQUE MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF REALM ASSASSINATED
TAGS: PINT, SP, (DE ARALUCE VILLAR, JUAN MARIA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006